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20 November 1958

Briefing Sheet for the Chairman, JCS, for the State-JCS  
Meeting, Friday, 21 November 1958, Agenda Item 2a

Subject: Berlin Airlift Plans (C)

Reason for Discussion - Capability of available airlift to cope with contingency support of West Berlin in event of a Communist-imposed blockade.

Background - Hq USAFE Operation Plan 5-57: "Berlin Airlift (Reduced)", in support of Hq US EUCOM Plan (Berlin) 12-55, is based on utilizing theater transport aircraft. Current Air Force operations thinking is that USAFE would be augmented with 30 additional C-124 aircraft, which would free the theater's C-130 and C-119 aircraft for other intra-theater lift. Build-up of this augmenting lift would be completed within approximately 30 days.

Comments and Conclusions - By the above augmentation, there would be a total of 72 C-124's available for Berlin support, fully capable of lifting the monthly requirement of 45,600 tons, while leaving a nominal intra-theater airlift capability. Prior to arrival of augmenting C-124's, together with support materiel and personnel, USAFE plans by maximum utilization of existing intra-theater airlift capability to accomplish anticipated Berlin airlift requirements and still maintain minimal intra-theater airlift.

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